

Without the examination of further material I cannot determine definitely the status of *kumlieni* and *nelsoni*, but I am of opinion that the former is a plumage of *leucopterus* after the second postnuptial moult, and the latter is possibly a similar stage of *glaucescens*. This question and many others present themselves as we learn what bearing age has in modifying plumage and proportions of the Gulls. I think the specific distinctness of *L. barrovianus* from *glaucus* is open to doubt, and *brachyhynchus* is likely to prove merely a variety of *canus*, while *L. schistisagus*, *L. affinis*, *L. cachinnans* and *L. vegae*, on further study, may perhaps show new affinities.

My sketch of the sequence of moults and plumages of the Gulls and Terns has necessarily been superficial in many respects, but at least we have gained enough insight into the usual course of their changes of plumage to see that plumages are definite entities acquired along definite lines of development. It seems to me that, with all the material available for study at the present day, we should avoid classing together, as in the past, unrelated stages of "immature" plumage and specify precisely what stage we mean unless we wish to subject ourselves to the lurking suspicion that our knowledge or our methods have not kept pace with our scientific zeal.

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Cambridge, Mass., Monday evening, November 12, 1900. The business meeting was held in Mr. William Brewster's museum, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 13, and lasting three days, were held in the Nash Lecture-room of the University Museum.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Merriam, in the absence of the President, Mr. Robert

Ridgway. Eighteen active members were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Congress as 748, constituted as follows: Active, 46; Honorary, 16; Corresponding, 65; Associate, 621.

During the year the Union lost seventy-eight members — ten by death, twenty-three by resignation, and forty-five were dropped for non-payment of dues. The members lost by death were Dr. Elliott Coues,¹ an Active Member, and one of the Founders of the Union, who died at Baltimore, Md., December 25, 1899, at the age of 57; George B. Sennett,² also an Active Member, who died in Youngstown, Ohio, March 18, 1900, aged 59 years; Prof. Alphonse Milne-Edwards,³ an Honorary Member, who died in Paris, April 21, 1900, at the age of 64; Dr. D. Webster Prentiss,⁴ one of the Founders of the Union, and for twelve years an Active Member, who died in Washington, D. C., November 19, 1899, aged 56 years. Owing to failing health he resigned his Active Membership in 1895, and on the acceptance of his resignation he was reelected as a Corresponding Member; and Edgar Leopold Layard,⁵ also a Corresponding Member, who died in Devon, England, January 1, 1900, in his 76th year. Also the following Associates; Foster H. Brackett,⁶ who died in Dorchester, Mass., January 9, 1900, aged 37; Francis C. Browne,⁷ who died in Framingham, Mass., January 9, 1900, aged 70; John A. Dakin,⁸ who died February 21, 1900, in Syracuse, N. Y., at the age of 48; Percy S. Selous,⁹ who died in Greenville, Mich., April 7, 1900; Charles C. Marble,¹⁰ who died in Chicago, September 25, 1900, aged 52; Edwin Carter, of Breckenridge, Colo.

¹ For an obituary notice, see *Auk*, XVII, p. 91, also Memorial Address in the present number.

² For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 193, also Memorial Address in this number.

³ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 320-321.

⁴ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 91-92.

⁵ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 321-322.

⁶ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 197.

⁷ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 194-196.

⁸ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, pp. 196-197.

⁹ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 322.

¹⁰ For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, p. 404.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam was elected President; Charles B. Cory and Charles F. Batchelder, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; William Dutcher, Treasurer. Frank M. Chapman, Ruthven Deane, E. W. Nelson, Witmer Stone, Drs. A. K. Fisher, Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and Thos. S. Roberts, were elected members of the Council. Dr. A. B. Meyer, of the Royal Museum, Dresden, was elected an Honorary Member, and Count E. Arrigoni Degli Oddi, University of Padua, Italy, and Walter E. Bryant, of Santa Rosa, Calif., Corresponding Members. Seventy new members were added to the list of Associates. The usual reports of Standing Committees were received.

A change in the By-Laws was proposed whereby the present class of Active Members shall be known as Fellows; the present class of Associate Members to be known as Associates, and to establish a class of membership intermediate between Fellows and Associates to be known as Members. The matter will be brought up for final action at the next Congress of the Union.

A letter was read from Miss Juliette A. Owen, of St. Joseph, Mo., an Associate Member, donating an additional \$100 to the Union. This will be added to a fund, the income of which is to be used for the advancement of the science of ornithology.

PUBLIC SESSION. FIRST DAY.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Merriam.

The first paper of the morning was a Memorial Address on the Hon. Geo. B. Sennett, an Active Member, by Dr. J. A. Allen. Mr. D. G. Elliot followed with a Memorial Address on Dr. Elliott Coues, also an Active Member, and a former President of the Union.

The reading of scientific communications began with a paper by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., on 'The Sequence of Moults and Plumages of the Laridæ (Gulls and Terns).' Remarks followed by Dr. T. S. Palmer, and the author.

Next came 'A Study of the Genus *Sturnella*,' by Mr. Frank M. Chapman. Remarks followed by the Chair, Mr. William Palmer, and the author.

The fifth title was 'The Moults of the North American Shore Birds (*Limicolæ*),' by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr. Remarks followed by the Chair, and by Dr. Allen.

The opening paper of the afternoon session was by Judge John N. Clark, entitled 'Dooryard Ornithology.'

The concluding papers of the day, both illustrated by lantern slides, were as follows:

'The Season of 1900 at the Magdalen Islands; with remarks on Bird Photography,' by the Rev. H. K. Job.

'Field Notes on a few New England Birds,' by William Brewster.

SECOND DAY.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Merriam.

'The "American Ornithologists' Union" of 1840-45,' by Witmer Stone, was the first paper of the morning.

The second title was 'Notes on the Spring Migration (1900) at Scarborough, N. Y.,' by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

The third paper was entitled 'Among the Terns at Muskeget, and on the New Jersey Coast,' by Mr. Wm. L. Baily. It was illustrated by lantern slides.

Next came an 'Exhibition of lantern slides of Birds, Birds' Nests, and Nesting Haunts, from Nature,' by Dr. Thos. S. Roberts. Remarks followed by Dr. Merriam.

The fifth paper was 'On the Value of careful Observations of Birds' Habits,' by Edward H. Forbush.

The afternoon session was devoted to the following papers — all being illustrated by lantern slides, viz.:

'Bird Studies with a Camera,' by Mr. Frank M. Chapman.

'Notes on a Nest of Massachusetts Brown Creepers,' by Dr. A. P. Chadbourne.

'Natural History of the Alaska Coast,' by Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

THIRD DAY.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Merriam.

Mr. Witmer Stone, Chairman of the Committee on Protection of North American Birds, read the report of his committee for the previous year. This was followed by Mr. William Dutcher on the 'Results of Special Protection to Gulls and Terns obtained through

the Thayer Fund.' These reports are published in this number of 'The Auk,' and will be issued as a pamphlet to be sold at a low price for general distribution.

The third title was 'The Enforcement of the Lacey Act,' by Dr. T. S. Palmer.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the authorities of Harvard University for the use of the Nash Lecture-room as a place for meeting, and for other courtesies tendered to the Union, and to the Nuttall Ornithological Club for the very cordial welcome and most generous hospitality extended to the visiting members.

Owing to want of time for their presentation in full the following papers were read by title:

'The Pterylosis of *Podargus*; with Further Notes on the Pterylography of the Caprimulgidæ,' by Hubert Lyman Clark.

'Impressions of Some Hawaiian Birds,' by H. W. Henshaw.

'A Visit to the Birthplace of Audubon,' by O. Widmann.

'Aptosochromatism. A reply to Drs. Dwight and Allen,' by Francis J. Birtwell.

'On the breeding habits of Leconte's Sparrow,' by P. B. Peabody.

'Breeding of the Cerulean Warbler near Baltimore,' by Frank C. Kirkwood.

The Union then adjourned to meet at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, November 11, 1901.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.